

Atlanta Ham

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

AUGUST 2001

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Phil Latta, W4GTS
Silent Key
1916-2001

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“W4GTS logs last contact...Heaven”

Phil Latta, W4GTS, attributes DXCC honors to ‘good friends’

Atlanta bids farewell to friend and legend, W4GTS, after long battle with cancer.

Phil passed away Thursday evening July 26, 2001. Here's a little reminder of what made Phil so endearing to folks.

Phil Latta, W4GTS, has talked to almost every country that's ever existed – and a few of them that don't even exist any more.

Latta claims credit for more than 350 different “countries” as defined by The ARRL, scorekeepers for the DX Century Club (DXCC) award. Currently the ARRL recognizes only 327 countries. That total puts Latta, a 41 year mem-

ber of the Atlanta Radio Club, near the top of the DXCC Honor Roll. Phil's last honors came as he received the DXCC Millineum Award for contacts made during 2000.

How did he do it? Longevity helps. Latta, who recently celebrated his 85th birthday, has been licensed as W4GTS since 1940.

Friends have helped, too.

(Continued on page 4)

August Happenings...

W4DOC Annual Elections & Membership

August brings to conclusion another exciting year for The Atlanta Radio Club. In 2001 the club witnessed a revival of tradition and activity among the ranks. New repeaters. Another successful Hamfest. Increased outreach to the community. An overall steady increase in membership.

Once again it is time for club elections and the annual renewal of dues. Come join us Thursday evening as we elect our officers who will continue the work of moving our club forward.

HAMS RETURN FROM RUSSIA



A few local Hams including Charles Golsen, N4TZM, Stan Halter, KE4VGZ, and Bob Garcia, KD4JRT, recently joined an Atlanta Friendship Force trip to Russia. They will have a stories to share with us at the August meeting.

THE ATLANTA HAM

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Submit articles:

Atlanta Radio Club
Attn: HAM EDITOR
PO BOX 942150
Atlanta, Georgia 31141

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment, including computers



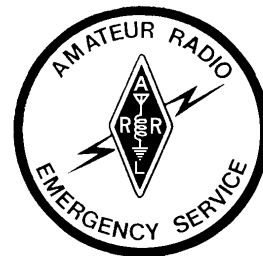
Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.2(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates six repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). All our repeaters are undergoing extensive renovations during the summer of 2000. On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of what we plan to have on the air by late spring or summer 2001

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate three repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Tim, WK4U, and should also be on the air before January 1, 2001. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Thursday August 2, 2001 730pm
WHERE: The Red Cross Training Rooms
Lindbergh Plaza, Sidney Marcus
& Piedmont Ave

TALK IN: 146.820

PROGRAM: Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP)

Join us for a presentation on IRLP. Also, a short roundup from N4TZM on his trip to Russia

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – PENN K4PE

Thanks to David Schornak, KG4LSK, for a fine presentation on APRS at our July meeting. David is willing to make copies of an APRS CD for club members to jump-start interest in the software. This CD has detailed maps for the state of Georgia along with everything you need to get started with APRS. You will need to provide him with \$0.50 for postage and \$1 for a blank CD-R. He will bring 4 or 5 copies of this disk with him to the September meeting, so you can pick one up for free then.

I will give our August 2nd presentation on the Internet Radio Linking Project or IRLP. I will give special emphasis to how you can use this technology on our repeaters.

IRLP, Cable Modems and How it ought to be

On Friday July 21, I left for north Georgia to install antennas on a receive site for 146.82. As I left Atlanta, the storm clouds were gathering and I understand the ensuing thunderstorm snarled rush hour traffic. The storm knocked out my Internet service. I could no longer reach my home computer via the Internet from North Georgia. Not knowing what the problem was, I did not call AT&T Broadband until I returned home around 2PM on Monday afternoon, July 23rd. I placed the call at 2:30PM and didn't speak with a human being for at least 45 minutes. I spoke with two customer-no-service reps before I finally spoke with someone who agreed to send a technician the next day.

Both my AT&T digital telephone line and cable-modem service were down. AT&T wanted me to call a second phone number to report trouble with their telephone line. Also, my cable TV, still analog, developed snow on the picture. They wanted me to call a third number for that! I spent 90 minutes on the phone with them, and never even reported the TV or telephone problem!

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SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society

Tybee Island, GA: Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, K4T, 0001Z Aug 4 to 2359Z Aug 5, for National Lighthouse Weekend from Tybee Island Light. 3.970 14.270 28.370. QSL. Phil Faulkner, 3010 Larkspur Court, Cumming, GA 30041. www.waterw.com/~weidner/arlhs/index.html

W4GTS...

(Continued from page 1)

"The best thing you can have is good friends, people who will call you and you call them," Latta says.

"Even if it's 4 o'clock in the morning, your wife might hate you, but you'll get that station."

An Atlanta native, Latta grew up in West End. He got his first tower courtesy of his father, an AT&T employee who obtained for him and his brother a 55 foot telephone pole.

After earning a journalism degree from Wake Forest and working briefly as a sports writer ("I liked to write, but meeting people, getting facts right, I had trouble with that," Latta says), he was drafted and served in Europe during WWII. While there, he discovered a knack for languages that he decided to translate into another college degree when the war ended.

Things didn't work out quite the way he anticipated, though.

After the war, while working towards a master's degree in French at Laval University in Quebec, Latta broke his leg during a game of touch football. The injury revealed a far more serious problem: osteomyelitis, or, as Latta described it, "bone rot."

A bone graft to his right tibia eventually addressed the condition, but it kept him laid up for three years thereafter. Without the master's degree and still recuperating, he returned to Atlanta in the late 1940's.

After recovering, two bits of good fortune secured his situation in Georgia. One was being hired as an engineer for the city of Atlanta; he retired from that job in 1987. The other was a land investment in Douglas County that subsequently skyrocketed in value. Thanks to the initial investment and subsequent reinvestments by his wife Margaret, Latta said, he's had a nest egg to finance a comfortable life, travel – and the occasional Expedition.

As a ham, Latta has journeyed to the Na-

(Continued on page 7)



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TS-50S HF Transceiver

- TS-50S - World's smallest HF trans.
- 558 CW, AM, FM • 12V Gen. Cov. RX
- 6.4 lbs., 7.16 x 2.4 x 9.32" • 100W out
- 105 db dynamic range, 100 Memos
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- Optional 3rd band available • Backlit mic
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METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

First Sunday WCARS VEC
2:00 PM (Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs Road, Gainesville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

Second Tuesday 7:00 PM
Walton EMC Building
3645 Lenora Church Road, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second Saturday CA VEC 8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, K14RD (770)978-9160

Third Saturday CA VEC 9:00 AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305
56 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466

Fourth Friday W5YI VEC 7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road, Lilburn
Headphones provided
Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2001

We are still looking at a few places to hold a once a month Saturday W4DOC Breakfast. Have a favorite place to eat breakfast that can accommodate a small group of folks, let us know!

STARS – August 25, 2002 12pm – 3pm SCITREK

ATLANTA HAMFEST 2002... Always looking for volunteers. This is a good chance to have some fun and see what goes on behind the scenes in planning for a Hamfest. Jobs are easy, give me a

SIMPLE PROJECTS YOU CAN BUILD

DF Antenna Construction Project
Dick Bentley K2UF
Building a J-Pole antenna

Here is a J-Pole antenna constructed out of 300 ohm twin lead. It has the advantage of being able to roll up into a small diameter suitable for stashing in your suitcase or briefcase and provides more gain than your rubber ducky. I have found this antenna useful when trying to coordinate communications over paths several miles in length where a repeater was not available or not desirable to use. I would just throw it up in a tree or tack it to a suitable length of furring strip and prop it up in a convenient spot. In one unusual application, the final walker on a March of Dimes Walkathon was a ham carrying a sign on a furring strip indicating the end of the line of march. With the J-Pole tacked to the sign, we had no problems maintaining communications with him over a 10K course in hilly terrain.

Materials: 54 1/2" good quality 300 ohm twin lead
5 to 10 feet of RG58U coax with appropriate connector

Refer to diagram. (PAGE 7) Strip 1/2" of insulation from bottom of twin lead and solder wires together. Measure 1 1/4" up from bottom of twin lead and carefully bare both wires (remove about 1/4" of insulation from wires but leave center insulation to maintain rigidity of twin lead.) Attach coax shield to one wire and center conductor to the other wires. On the side of the twin lead where you have attached the center conductor, measure up 16 3/4" from bottom and cut a 1/4" long notch in the wire to create the "J". Don't solder the top wires together. Tape the coax to the twin lead, punch a hole in the top of the antenna to accept a rope to hang the thing with. The original instructions I have state you can place the antenna in a 1/2" PVC sleeve for outdoor use without modification – other articles have cited the need to change the dimensions to allow for the effects of the PVC on radiation. Think you will enjoy using this antenna due to its gain and "portability." This article was originated by James Burks, KA5QY, on some bulletin board years ago and then relayed by Dick back in June of 1990 for use in the Ham. If you have a love for tinkering and have a small project of your own, let us know

SIGNMAN of Baton Rouge



ORDER THE W4DOC BADGE!



The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a SILVER background with BLUE letters and the CLUB LOGO in GOLD. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO; makes this name tag unique. The ARC badge is \$8.75 (includes s&h).

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AUGUST 2001 CONTESTING SCHEDULE

ARRL UHF Contest, see July QST, page 119.

North American QSO Party, CW, sponsored by the National Contest Journal, from 1800Z Aug 4 until 0600Z Aug 5 (phone is 1800Z Aug 18 until 0600Z Aug 19). Single op (no spotting nets, no packet) and multi-two. Single ops may have only one transmitted signal at a time; multi-twos have a 10-minute rule. All entries must use ≈ 100 W output power. Multiops may operate for the full 12 hours, Single ops may operate 10 hours, with off times at least 30 min long and marked in the log. Work stations once per band. CW in CW subbands only (phone in phone sub bands only). Exchange name and state/province/DXCC entity. Final score is QSOs \times multipliers. Team competition. Awards. Electronic awards accepted. Send CW logs to Bob Selbrede, K6ZZ, 6200 Natoma Ave, Mojave CA 93501; cwnaq@ncjweb.com. Send phone entries to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, 4225 Farmdale Ave, Studio City, CA 91604; ssbnaq@ncjweb.com; www.ncjweb.com/.

QRP ARCI Summer Daze SSB Sprint, sponsored by QRP ARCI, 2000Z to 2400Z Aug 5. Entries may be All Band, Single Band, High Band (40, 20, 15, 10, 6), Low Band (160, 80, 40), Multi-op or DX. Work stations once per band. Exchange signal report, state/province/country and power or ARCI number. 1.860 3.865 7.285 14.285 21.385 28.385 50.128. One point per QSO. Bonus points, per band, for using homebrew equipment: 500 pts for transmitter, 500 points for receiver, 1000 points for transceiver. Final score is total QSO points (all bands) multiplied by total of states/provinces/countries (all bands) \times power multiplier (> 10 W PEP out = 1; < 10 W PEP out = 7; < 2 W PEP out = 10; < 500 mW PEP out = 15). Include a description of equipment and antennas used. Mail entry within 30 days to: Randy Foltz, K7TQ, Attn: Summer Daze, 809 Leith St, Moscow, ID 83843, or e-mail to: rfoltz@turbonet.com; personal.palouse.net/rfoltz/arcitstst.htm.

YO-DX Contest, sponsored by the Romanian Amateur Radio Federation (RARF). 0001Z to 2000Z Aug 5, 80 40 20 15 10 meters, phone and CW. No crossmode QSOs. Classes: single op, single band; single op, multiband; multiop, multiband. Exchange RST and ITU Zone. YO stations will send two letters indicating their county. Count 0 pts/QSO with own country, 2 pts/QSO with own continent, 4 pts/QSO with different continent and 8 pts/QSO for YO stations. Multiply by sum of YO counties and ITU zones worked per band. Mail entries by Sept 3 to Romanian Amateur Radio Federation, PO Box 22-50, R-71100 Bucuresti, Romania. E-mail yo3kaa@pcnet.pcnet.ro; www.qsl.net/yo3kaa/.

Maryland-DC QSO Party, sponsored by Antietam Radio

Association, 1600Z Aug 11 to 0400Z Aug 12 and 1600Z Aug 12 to 2359Z Aug 12, phone and CW (CW in subband/no cross mode QSOs). Work stations once per band/mode, portable/mobiles can be worked again in each county. No packet, repeater or net QSOs, MD-DC stations work everyone, others work only MD-DC. Exchange: QTH and category (Club, QRP, Mobile, Novice/Tech and Standard). Count 5 pts/mobile QSO, 4 pts/QRP QSO, 3 pts/CW, digital or ATV QSO, 1 pt for all others. Highest single point applies. Final score is total QSO points \times overall different multipliers (MD counties + Baltimore City + DC). MD-DC stations include states/provinces/DXCC entities. Awards. Club competition. Send logs by Sept 1 to: Antietam Radio Association, PO Box 52, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0052; www.qsl.net/w3cwc/rules.htm.

Worked All Europe DX Contest, CW, sponsored by the Deutscher ARC, 0000Z Aug 11 to 2400Z Aug 12 (phone is Sep 8-9; RTTY is Nov 10-11). 80 40 20 15 10. Single op (PacketCluster or spotting nets allowed; 36 hours max, up to three off periods, 1 hour minimum) and multi-single (only one signal/band). All stations must remain on a band for at least 10 minutes, except to work a new multiplier. Send RS(T) and serial number. Score 1 pt/QSO and 1 pt/QTC. Non European stations must work Europe only (except on RTTY, where everyone works everyone). Final score is QSOs + QTCs \times EU countries/band (except on RTTY: WAE countries + DXCC entities). Multipliers: 3.5 MHz QSOs, $\times 4$; 7 MHz, $\times 3$; 14-28 MHz, $\times 2$. A QTC is a report of confirmed QSOs that took place earlier in the contest that is sent back to the European station. Only non-European stations to European stations may send QTCs. A QTC contains the time, call sign and QSO number of the station being reported. A QSO may only be reported once, and not back to the originating station. A maximum of 10 QTCs can be sent to the same station; the same station can be worked several times. Only the original QSO has QSO point value. Keep a list of QTCs sent. E.g., QTC 3/7 would indicate that this is the third series of QTCs sent, and seven QSOs are reported. Awards. Club competition. Deadlines: CW--Sep 15; phone--Oct 15; RTTY--Dec 15. Send logs to: WAEDC Contest Committee, Dürerring 7, D-74372 Sersheim, Germany; waedc@darc.de; www.darc.de/referate/dx/.

New Jersey QSO Party, sponsored by Englewood ARA, 2000Z Aug 18 to 0700Z Aug 19, 1300Z Aug 19 to 0200Z Aug 22. Phone and CW. CW contacts may not be made in phone band segments. 3 pts/QSO. Out-of-state stations, QSO pts \times NJ counties worked. NJ stations, QSO pts \times states (but not NJ)/provinces/NJ counties (max, $40+12+21=82$). Logs must show UTC date and time, call sign, exchange, band and claimed multiplier. Awards. Logs and comments (include SASE for results) no later than Sep 15

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC P.O. Box 942150 Atlanta, GA 31141-2150

New[] Renewal[] Treasurer Use: Date Paid: _____ Amount: _____ Cash[] or Check#
Name _____ Call _____ Class _____
Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____ Birth _____
Occupation _____ Spouse's Name _____
Family Names (Included in membership) List Here: _____

Type of Application [] Voting \$22 [] Associate \$15 [] Student \$8 [] Family \$2(non-voting)

Are you a member of ARRL (Y/N) _____ Please include my renewal/new membership in ARRL when processing this Application! (Y/N) _____

ARRL Membership Dues are as follows: [] Regular [] Family/Blind [] 65 or older (Proof of age required)

[] 1 year	\$34	\$5	\$28
[] 2 year	\$65	\$10	\$53
[] 3 year	\$92	\$15	\$76

ARRL Dues include subscription to QST Magazine (Except Family/Blind memberships)

DUES PAID: ARC \$ _____ + FAMILY \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____
ARRL \$ _____ + FAMILY \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

(Continued from page 4)

LATTA...

vassa, St. Lucia and the Bahamas. He also traveled plenty as a civilian, and he used his travels to indulge another hobby: flag collecting. Latta's collection includes flags from Greece, China, Argentina, and Czechoslovakia.

Latta's shack in Marietta was equipped with a Kenwood TS-930S and a TL-922A linear amp. His antenna was a "very, very old" Mosley Classic 36 tri-bander for 10, 15, and 20 meters, atop a 110-foot tower. "Now and then lightning does something to it, unfortunately," Latta said. How did he maintain it? "I count on good buddies. Young buddies," as Phil was fond to say of his friends

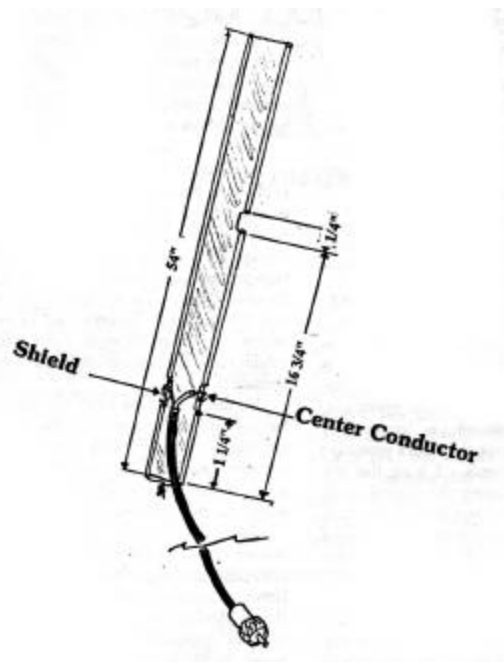
Survivors include a daughter, Phyllis L. Bridges; a granddaughter, Margaret M. Bridges; a sister, Mary L. Pinson; and a brother, William I. Latta Jr.



Reflections: Bill Ronay

Phil Latta, W4GTS has logged his last station contact...Heaven. Phil, whom all of us in the Atlanta Radio Club and many other organizations throughout the South and Southeast, is now a Silent Key. One of select few who "had 'em all", you and I as well as the entire Amateur Radio community have lost a true friend...CW op par excellence!

Building a J-Pole antenna continued...



ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC.
PO BOX 720398
ATLANTA, GA 30358



MEETING NOTICE AUGUST 2, 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

I spoke with three people, each of who were reasonably polite, but the entire experience was like death by Chinese-water-torture. I believe the dot-com crash has a variety of causes, but none are more salient than the lack of adoption of high-speed Internet service. The reason most people don't have broadband is that it is living hell to acquire it, and to fix it when it doesn't work. Most folks will not tolerate what I (barely) tolerated when I called AT&T.

What does this have to do with ham radio? Two things. First, our IRLP connection is hosted on my cable-

modem connection. When I have an outage, you can't work IRLP, and perhaps we want to authorize a second or even a third IRLP node for our club. Two, more than a few of you have a vested interest in Information Technology. I have no doubt that most IT professionals would benefit if broadband providers like Bellsouth and AT&T would make buying and maintaining their high-speed service *easy and fun* for consumers.

When my broadband connection died on Friday afternoon, scripts running on AT&T's computers should have detected the lack of

presence of my modem on their network. They should have *called me* at home to ask if there was a problem. Even an email would have been better than nothing. Suppose I didn't receive their message until Monday afternoon: when I called it should've been like calling "611" to report an outage on my residential telephone. I have had to call "611" maybe twice in ten years, and both times, I was on the phone for less than 10 minutes, and I experienced an outage of perhaps a day. If you have the opportunity to attend an AT&T "town hall" meeting, give 'em hell, and tell them I sent you.